Infrastructure for health and eco-tourism

1495. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new tourism policy is on the anvil, integrating tourism infrastructure for rural health and eco-tourism along with initiatives to improve infrastructure in order to attract large scale private investment in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a plan is also on the anvil for Orissa which has a very good potential for tourism but on account of lack of resources the cash-strapped State is not able to exploit the potential; and

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to help the State to re-vitalise its tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Rajasthan brought out its Tourism Policy in 2001 which has, *inter-alia,* laid emphasis on creating employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas through tourism, and bringing improvements in the infrastructure.

(c) The Tourism Policy of Orissa, 1997 besides laying emphasis on involvement of the private sector, autonomous bodies, local authorities and the people at large in promoting tourism, has prioritized development of road, air, water and rail transport, as also connectivity to important tourist destinations. The Policy also lays special emphasis on increasing the accommodation facilities at important tourist centres in the State.

(d) Development of places of tourist interest is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Governments for the projects which are prioritized in consultation with them every year under its various schemes. For the State of Orissa, during the Ninth Five Year Plan, 62 projects were prioritized, and an amount of Rs. 1236.07 lakhs was sanctioned. During the first 3 years (2002-05) of Tenth Five Year Plan 14 projects have been identified for the State of Orissa, and an amount

of Rs. 1818.23 lakhs has been sanctioned as Central financial assistance for development of tourism in the State.

Height of Narmada Dam

1496. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent floods have revealed the inadequacy of Narmada Dam height in helping to harness flood water for better water utilisation;

(b) if so, what was the originally planned height of the dam and the reasons for reducing the height of the dam; and

(c) whether Government have been reconsidering to raise the dam height to that originally planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Dam has been designed for one in thousand years' flood with an assumed discharge of 30.7 lakh cusecs (87,000 cumecs). Considering all the aspects, the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal has fixed the Full Reservoir Level as 455 feet (Elevation Level 138.68m) for Sardar Sarovar Reservoir and construction of the dam is being done accordingly. The construction of the dam in various stages is *pari-passu* with the rehabilitation of project affected people.

(c) Does not arise.

Rain Water Harvesting Projects

†1497. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the number of ongoing rain water harvesting projects in the country with the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Rain water harvesting projects have been undertaken/are being undertaken by various Ministries/Departments/Organisations of the Goverment of India, State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.